



CLERMONT  
COUNTY OHIO

# *Leading the Way*

2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# Letter from the Commissioners

Thank you, Clermont County voters!

You demonstrated your commitment to the services provided by your tax dollars by approving all county levies on the ballot in late 2015 through 2016: Children's Services, Senior Services, Mental Health & Recovery Board, and the Board of Developmental Disabilities. And you also approved, for the first time, a levy for the county Park District. The Park District now has a stable source of funding and can address long-neglected maintenance as well as make improvements to our parks and programs. We appreciate your commitment to these agencies and districts, and what it says about the importance of providing these essential services.

In 2016, we took a major step toward the long-term economic health of our county by investing in the South Afton Commerce Park, a 242-acre shovel-ready site that will eventually lead to more than 3,500 direct and indirect jobs and spur more than a billion dollars a year in economic activity. South Afton will fill a major deficit in Clermont County – lack of developed sites with significant acreage.



David Uible



Ed Humphrey



David Painter

We continue to work with partners across the community to fight the opiate epidemic. This strains our resources – law enforcement, the courts, health care, mental health, Children's Services – and tears at the fabric of our community. We commend the Opiate Task Force for its hard work to find solutions for our community.

In 2016 we bid goodbye to our colleague of many years, Bob Proud, and in 2017, we welcomed his replacement, David Painter.

We look forward to a productive 2017, working for you, the citizens of Clermont County.

Sincerely,

David Uible  
President

Ed Humphrey  
Vice President

David Painter  
Member



## GOODBYE ...

Commissioner Bob Proud retired at the end of 2016, after 28 years as county Commissioner. Mr. Proud first came into office in 1989 at age 30, one of the youngest commissioners in the State of Ohio. He was known, among many other things, for his devotion to servicemen and women and to veterans, and was the founder of the military family support group, Whole in My Heart.

We also said goodbye to Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg, who retired after 20 years as Sheriff. Common Pleas Judge Thomas Herman also retired after 24 years, serving on the Municipal and Common Pleas Courts bench.

*We appreciate the dedication of these public servants!*



## ... AND HELLO

David L. Painter was elected Commissioner in November 2016. His primary career has been in the construction and engineering industry, and he served eight years on the New Richmond Board of Education.

Also elected: Robert S. (Steve) Leahy as Clermont County Sheriff, who has served in the Sheriff's Office since 1991, and Judge Anthony Brock to Common Pleas Court, who previously served on Municipal Court. Judge Jesse Kramig, a former senior assistant to the attorney general, was appointed to Municipal Court in January 2017.





## Leading the Way

### #Growth&Opportunity

In 2016, the Clermont County CIC made a major investment in the future when it bought 242 acres of land at State Route 32 and Half Acre Road in Williamsburg Township to develop South Afton Commerce Park. South Afton is tailor-made for manufacturers that are looking to expand or begin new operations in Clermont County. A short hop from Interstate 275, South Afton offers employers a strategic location and fills a gaping hole in Greater Cincinnati's need for industrial parks.



**Why this matters:** Clermont County and Greater Cincinnati suffer from a shortage of business-ready sites. With South Afton, Clermont County remedies that. Currently, infrastructure – roads, sewers, water lines, gas and electric utilities – is being built at the site.

**How this helps you:** Jobs – lots of them. When fully built out, South Afton Commerce Park is expected to provide more than 1,800 permanent jobs and more than 1,600 related jobs. Total payroll could exceed \$186 million a year. South Afton is expected to generate more than \$32 million in property taxes over time. That is a huge boost to the economic health of the county.



#### SAVOR SEASONINGS EXPANSION

**Savor Seasonings**, which creates snack seasonings for major food companies, opened its new \$2.25 million 20,000-square-foot plant in Batavia Township.

**Slice of Stainless** in Union Township is doubling the size of its headquarters in 2017 with a \$1.4 million expansion.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

## *Leading the Way*

in **#ConnectingClermont**  
to work, shop & play

**CLERMONT COUNTY IS GROWING** – and so is our need for roads that eliminate bottlenecks and get us to where we need to be safer and easier – to work, the grocery store, the soccer game, or back home. In 2016-17, the Clermont County Transportation Improvement District has three big projects on tap that take us closer to that goal of #ConnectingClermont.

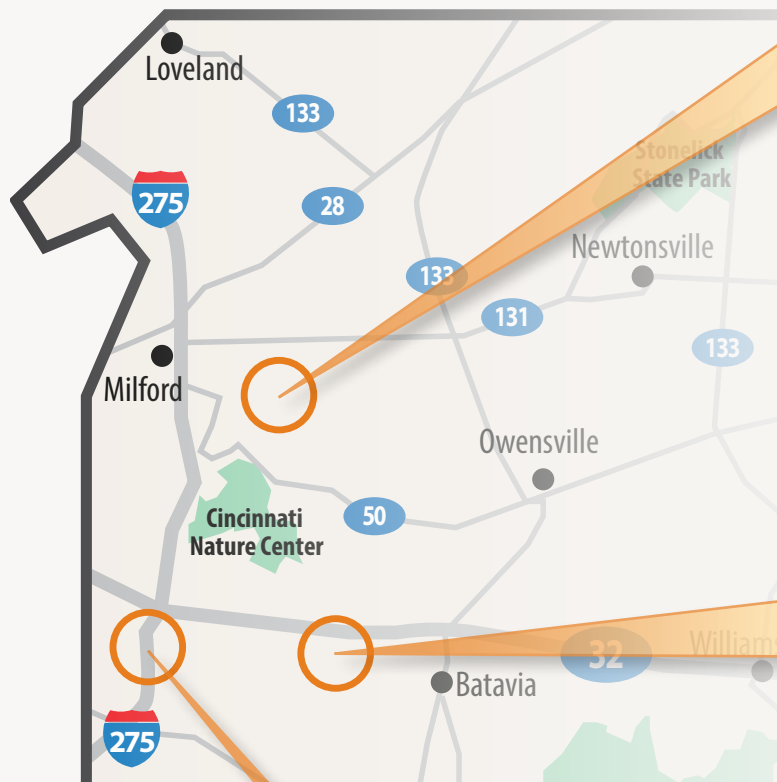


### NEW WATER METERS

Clermont County Water Resources Department is 80% completed with installing new AMI automated water meters on homes and businesses throughout the county. These meters allow the wireless transmission of water usage data.

**How this helps you:** Water bills are more timely and more accurate.





**Wolfpen-Pleasant Hill Safety Improvements:** We're in the middle of a year-long closing of Wolfpen-Pleasant Hill Road – and it'll be worth it. The road is being realigned, and new retaining walls are being built. Drainage, which has been a major issue especially during winter – too much ice on the roads – is being improved.

**How this helps you:** In plain terms, this road will be safer to drive. Less curvy, less steep, and better drainage of water in wet conditions.

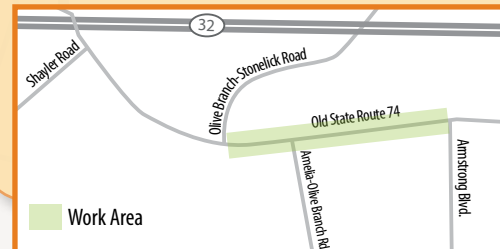
**Estimated cost:** \$3 million



**Old 74 Widening:** Old State Route 74 is being widened between Olive Branch-Stonelick Road and Armstrong Boulevard. We're getting a center turn lane, wider shoulders, and better pedestrian access.

**How this helps you:** This road was becoming more and more congested. The addition of a center turn lane will help keep traffic from backing up as cars stop to make left-hand turns. And it will also make it easier to access UC Clermont and College Drive.

**Estimated cost:** \$3.75 million



**The Aicholtz Road Connector:** When Interstate 275 was built, it split Aicholtz Road at the Eastgate interchange. Soon, Aicholtz will be one continuous road again. A newly-widened Aicholtz will provide through travel on Aicholtz all the way from Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Road to Eastgate Boulevard. There will be two travel lanes west of I-275 to Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Road, and three lanes from I-275 to Eastgate Boulevard.

**How this helps you:** Fewer cars on State Route 32! For traffic traveling east-west between Eastgate and Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Road, the Aicholtz Connector will provide an alternate route to SR 32. And that's a good thing!

**Estimated cost:** \$6.25 million





# HUMAN & HEALTH SERVICES

## Leading the Way



in #HelpingFamilies  
&ChildrenSucceed

### VOTERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In 2015-16, Clermont County voters passed levies to support Children's Protective Services, Developmental Disabilities and Senior Services. Our residents spoke with their votes – these services are crucial to our county, and help provide for the most vulnerable among us. These agencies, along with Clermont County Public Health, support the families, elderly, and children of Clermont County.

### SENIOR SERVICES

Voters signaled their support for Clermont Senior Services when they approved a 1.3 mill levy by 76% in March 2016. The levy comprises 71% of the agency's \$7.35 million budget. Moreover, the levy dollars open eligibility to federal funds, adding another 14% of revenue from other sources.

**Why this matters:** Senior Services serves 6,000 older adults in the county. It provides specialized transportation, Meals-on-Wheels, home care, adult day care, home repair and Lifelong Learning Centers. Most crucially, these services allow almost 5,000 seniors to stay in their homes, where they live relatively independently.

**How this helps you:** Clermont Senior Services provides peace of mind for many elderly – and their loved ones. As more and more baby boomers retire, their demand for services will increase. But, as they age, if more of them can stay in their homes – instead of going into assisted living or nursing homes – there will be less of a drain on our community's resources. Clermont Senior Services makes living at home more possible.



### BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

In March 2016, voters passed a 1.4 mill levy that replaced two previous levies that were not generating enough revenue to meet the growing needs of those with developmental disabilities in the community. The new levy provides DD with \$3.4 million annually, out of a total budget of \$17 million.

**Why this matters:** DD serves 2,000 eligible children and adults in the county, and the levy allows it to address those on its waiting list. Among its many programs: Early Childhood Services, for families whose children are born with a disability, and respite care and behavior support for parents of older children. DD helps teens find jobs or other opportunities as they get closer to graduating from high school. The agency also helps adults find work and live as independently as possible. And DD provides around-the-clock care for some individuals who could not exist without it.

**How this helps you:** As our county grows, so do the number of individuals who are born with a disability. DD's childhood programs start these children on the right path, and its programs for teens and adults integrate them into the community, allowing them to contribute their talents and skills in a meaningful way.







## CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In November 2015, voters said yes to the county's Children's Protective Services 0.08 mill levy. This levy provides 43% of CPS' total annual budget of \$6.2 million.

**Why this matters:** CPS investigates more than 1,100 reports of child abuse each year. These reports come from law enforcement, schools, relatives and neighbors. In 2016, Juvenile Court gave CPS custody of 112 children who could not remain safely at home. After CPS becomes involved, 94% of children who were abused do not suffer additional abuse.

**How this helps you:** It's all of our responsibility to keep the children of Clermont County safe. Children's Protective Services values and depends on collaboration with community agencies and private citizens to protect our county's children. **To report concerns of child abuse call 513.732.STOP. To learn more about becoming a foster parent call 513.732.7765.**



Public Health staff at a WIC clinic.

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

In 2016, \$36 million in child support was collected on behalf of the families we serve.

**Why this matters:** Child support is important to a child's healthy development. It makes a real difference in managing food, shelter, clothing, medical and dental expenses.

**How this helps you:** Child support encourages family responsibility -- it supports, supplements and stabilizes family income, increases self-sufficiency and avoids public assistance costs.



Longtime foster care parents Dan and Viola Rice have also adopted two sets of siblings through CPS.

**Adoptions:** CPS found adoptive homes for 44 children that Juvenile Court determined could never return to their biological parents. Of the 27 families that opened their hearts and homes to these children, several adopted siblings, including a sibling group of four. **We are grateful to these wonderful families!**




Our Summer Youth Employment Program hired 127 young people. They worked for 48 employers, including Empower Youth in Bethel, above.



**Safe biking!** Clermont County Public Health gave away 112 children's bicycle safety helmets in May 2016 during the Family Fun Adventure Challenge at the Batavia Township Community Center. The helmets were given away as part of Bicycle Safety Week and were provided thanks to a grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics.





# OPIATE TASK FORCE

## *Leading the Way* in #FightingHeroin

In 2016, the heroin and opiate crisis continued to be Public Enemy No. 1 in Clermont County – it has devastated the lives of many families in our county, and takes a tremendous toll on public resources – law enforcement, the courts, jail, mental health, public health, Children’s Services. In 2015, 94 people died of an overdose in Clermont County.

The Opiate Task Force, which began in 2013, leads the way in a collaborative approach to this issue. Its mantra: *We’re in this together, and we need to figure this out – every day – together.* Here’s how some of the partners on the task force changed lives in 2016.



### LAW ENFORCEMENT

**New approach:** In 2016, the Clermont County Sheriff’s Office, in conjunction with other law enforcement jurisdictions in the county, began “directed patrols,” targeting drivers who appeared to be under the influence of drugs. As fatalities and injuries have mounted from drugged drivers, Steve Leahy, then Deputy Chief and now Sheriff, said, “Our first priority is to keep people safe.” The Sheriff’s Office also added a deputy to three townships – Stonelick, Jackson and Wayne -- that were experiencing increased property crimes related to drug use.

**The numbers:** During the year, the Sheriff’s Office conducted 10 directed patrols, making 193 traffic stops and multiple arrests. In the townships where the Sheriff added a deputy, burglaries decreased by 58%, breaking and entering went down by 21%, and theft decreased by 5%.

**How this helps you:** Our streets are safer. Overall in the townships patrolled by the Sheriff’s Office, as arrests for drug offenses and OVI’s have gone up substantially, reports of burglaries have decreased by 23% countywide.



Sen. Rob Portman, right, visits the CASC in January 2016. With him is Chief Steve Leahy (now Sheriff), at left, and then-Sheriff A.J. Rodenberg.





## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD

**Voters make a difference:** In November 2015, Clermont County voters decided to bring more ammunition to the fight against heroin. They voted to renew the 0.5 mill levy that has helped fund the Mental Health & Recovery Board since 1981 AND increase it by 0.25 mills. The levy now brings in \$3 million a year – bringing MHRB's total funding to \$6 million annually, and allowing the board to provide more services.

**Focus for 2016:** Getting people with addiction into treatment and expanding access to Medication Assisted Treatment.

**Outreach team:** MHRB is funding an outreach team comprised of several recovery coaches (above) who work at the Clermont Recovery Center. They know what people in addiction are going through, and they meet those people anytime, anywhere – in jail, at Mercy Hospital Clermont, in the waiting room of a treatment center. Recovery coaches provide a new lifeline.

**What's ahead for 2017:** The Quick Response Team in Union Township focuses on getting addicts into recovery after they have survived an overdose. Also: A Recovery House for 6-8 people is in the works.

**How this helps you:** More people in treatment means less crime, fewer broken-up families, more people working.



## NEW WEBSITE!

The Opiate Task Force launched a new website, [www.getcleannowclermont.org](http://www.getcleannowclermont.org), with information to help substance abusers, their loved ones, and the community.



## PUBLIC HEALTH

Clermont County Public Health is the key partner when it comes to distributing naloxone kits throughout the community. Better known by its brand name, Narcan, naloxone has become a must-have tool of police and EMS. In 2016, Public Health distributed Narcan to various law enforcement, and fire/EMS agencies, as well as the Clermont Recovery Center. The Sheriff's Office alone reports that it saved 30 lives in 2016 by administering Narcan.

## COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING CENTER

This voluntary program, funded by the Board of County Commissioners, provides drug, alcohol and mental health treatment services to offenders convicted of non-violent misdemeanors that are drug- or alcohol-related. From September 2015 through August 2016, 194 individuals went through treatment at the CASC. A study shows that those who successfully complete the program are less likely to re-offend, and that it is less expensive to house and treat offenders at the CASC than to put them in jail.







# ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS

*Leading the Way*



for #GreenClermont



## CLERMONT PARK DISTRICT

**Voters make a difference:** It's no exaggeration to say that voters totally rewrote the future of the Park District in 2016. The Park District asked voters to support a levy – and they did, resoundingly, approving in November 2016 a 0.5 mill, 10-year property tax that will generate approximately \$2.1 million annually. Previously, the Park District's annual budget was about \$587,000.

**What this means:** For years, the Park District had to defer much needed maintenance, simply because it didn't have the funds. In 2017, you'll start to see essential repairs taken care of – from roofs to bathrooms to shelters to basic electrical upgrades to resurfaced tennis courts. And you'll start to see new amenities as well: new playground equipment, new grills, new trails, access improvements. The funds will also allow the hiring of a few crucial positions as the district plans for new parks, and replacing or improving existing facilities.

**Growing:** The Park District added land in 2016, and will continue that in 2017, thanks to generous donations and grants. The 60-acre Wach Family Nature Preserve and the 72-acre Grailville Forest Preserve, both in Miami Township, will, over time, become venues for enjoying the county's scenic natural heritage.

**Happy trails:** The Williamsburg-to-Batavia Hike Bike Trail added another mile in 2016, expanding its paved portions to Greenbrier Road by paving old Summit Road in Batavia Township. A big thanks to Interact for Health, which provided a grant to Clermont County Public Health, and the Clermont County Engineer's Office, which did the work.

**How this helps you:** Better parks, more greenspace, more programs for kids and adults, more opportunities to enjoy nature.

## Soil & Water Conservation District

Storm water management may not sound exciting, but it's essential to the quality of our water. The SWCD completed two major storm water projects in 2016, including one in the Village of Amelia at Shank Park and one in Union Township at the Shayler Woods subdivision.

Plus, the district continues to work with farmers on various conservation methods to reduce nutrient runoffs: cover crops, grassed waterways, and wetlands.

**How this helps you:** A reduction in harmful algal blooms at Harsha Lake, and better stream quality in the East Fork watershed.

**Amelia Mayor Todd Hart:** *"We're very excited about this project because simple improvements to the basin will reduce the problems with storm water runoff in this area and beautify the park at the same time. We hope both residents and visitors to Amelia stop by Shank Park to see the work that was done."*





# GENERAL OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

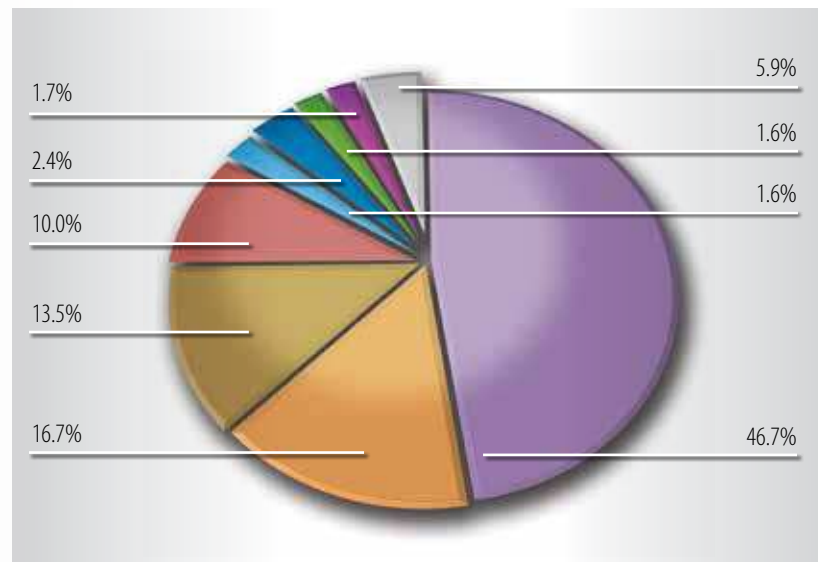
The Commissioners adhere to a prudent philosophy – don't spend what you don't have – and that is reflected in the annual budget.

As population, retail and jobs grow in Clermont County, so too do our revenues. In 2016, revenues reached almost \$59 million, compared to \$56.9 million in 2015. Sales tax is the largest part of our revenue stream, coming in at \$27.5 million. Total expenses for the year ended at \$56 million, with Criminal Justice the largest part of that at \$22 million. In addition, the General Fund balance increased \$3 million in 2016. The fund balance can be used for one-time expenses, which may include capital expenses for infrastructure replacements, and to make up for unanticipated revenue shortfalls.

## 2016 General Fund Revenues

General Fund Revenues Source	2016 Revenues*	
Sales Tax	\$27,549.54	46.7%
Charges for Services	\$9,863.20	16.7%
Property Taxes	\$7,989.14	13.5%
Intergovernmental	\$5,874.44	10.0%
Licenses & Permits	\$1,388.01	2.4%
Other Revenues	\$949.35	1.6%
Fines & Forfeitures	\$976.27	1.7%
Investment Income	\$946.13	1.6%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$55,536.08</b>	<b>94.1%</b>
Non-Operating	\$3,463.86	5.9%
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$58,999.94</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

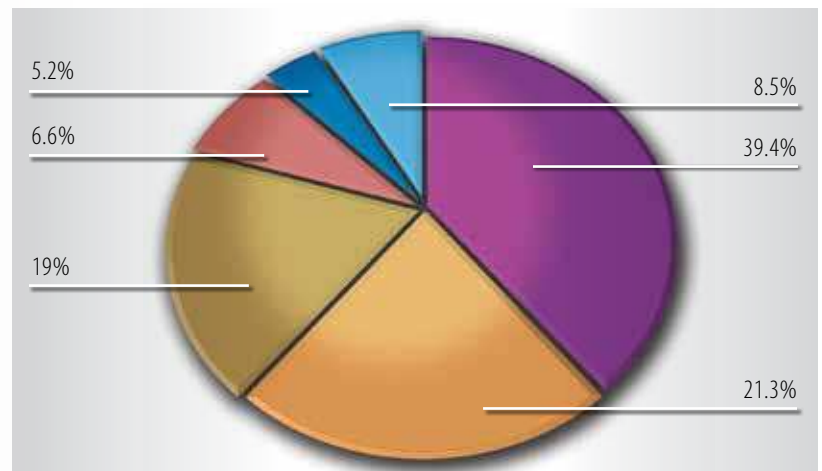
\*Shown in thousands



## 2016 General Fund Expenses

Expenses by Function	2016 General Fund Expenses	
Criminal Justice	\$22,071.57	39.4%
Judicial Services	\$11,961.10	21.3%
General Government	\$10,667.80	19.0%
Public Safety	\$3,686.11	6.6%
Health & Human Services	\$2,893.24	5.2%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$51,279.83</b>	<b>91.5%</b>
Non-Operating	\$4,769.87	8.5%
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>\$56,049.70</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Shown in thousands





# HOW YOU CAN REACH US

## AGENCIES, BOARDS AND DISTRICTS

### Board of Elections

513-732-7275

[www.clermontelections.org](http://www.clermontelections.org)

### Board of Developmental Disabilities

513-732-7000

[www.clermontdd.org](http://www.clermontdd.org)

### Mental Health and Recovery Board

513-732-5400

[www.ccmhrb.org](http://www.ccmhrb.org)

### OSU Clermont Extension

513-732-7070

[www.clermont.osu.edu](http://www.clermont.osu.edu)

### Park District

513-732-2977

[www.clermontparks.org](http://www.clermontparks.org)

### Public Health

513-732-7499

[www.ccphohio.org](http://www.ccphohio.org)

### Public Library

513-732-2736

[www.clermontlibrary.org](http://www.clermontlibrary.org)

### Senior Services

513-724-1255

[www.clermontseniors.com](http://www.clermontseniors.com)

### Soil and Water Conservation District

513-732-7075

[www.clermontswcd.org](http://www.clermontswcd.org)

### Veterans Service Commission

513-732-7363

[www.clermontcountyveterans.com](http://www.clermontcountyveterans.com)

## COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

### Clermont Transportation Connection

513-732-7433

[www.ctc.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.ctc.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Economic Development

513-732-7825

[www.clermontcountyohio.biz](http://www.clermontcountyohio.biz)

### Emergency Management Agency

513-732-7661

[www.ema.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.ema.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Job and Family Services

513-732-7111

[www.djfs.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.djfs.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Office of Environmental Quality

513-732-7745

[www.oeq.net](http://www.oeq.net)

### Office of Public Information

513-732-7597

[www.clermontcountyohio.gov/news](http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/news)

### Permit Central

513-732-7213

[www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Planning

513-732-7825

[www.clermontcountyohio.gov/planning](http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/planning)

### Water Resources Department

513-732-7970

[www.wrd.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.wrd.clermontcountyohio.gov)

## ELECTED OFFICIALS (2017)

### Board of County Commissioners

David H. Uible, President

Edwin H. Humphrey, Vice President

David L. Painter, Member

513-732-7300

[www.bcc.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.bcc.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Auditor

Linda Fraley

513-732-7150

[www.clermontauditor.org](http://www.clermontauditor.org)

### Clerk of Courts, Common Pleas

Barbara Wiedenbein

513-732-8119

[www.clermontclerk.org](http://www.clermontclerk.org)

### Clerk of Courts, Municipal

Tim Rudd

513-732-7290

[www.clermontclerk.org](http://www.clermontclerk.org)

### Common Pleas Court

Judge Anthony W. Brock

Judge Richard P. Ferenc

Judge Victor M. Haddad

Judge Jerry R. McBride

513-732-7394

[www.clermontcommonpleas.com](http://www.clermontcommonpleas.com)

### Coroner

Dr. Brian Treon

513-732-8117

[www.clermontcoroner.org](http://www.clermontcoroner.org)

### Domestic Relations Court

Judge Kathleen M. Rodenberg

513-732-7327

[www.domesticcourt.org](http://www.domesticcourt.org)

### Engineer

Patrick J. Manger

513-732-8857

[www.clermontengineer.org](http://www.clermontengineer.org)

### Juvenile Court

Judge James A. Shriver

513-732-7696

[www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Municipal Court

Judge Jesse B. Kramig

Judge Kevin T. Miles

Judge Jason E. Nagel

513-732-7911

[www.municipal.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.municipal.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Probate Court

Judge James A. Shriver

513-732-7243

[www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Prosecutor

Vince Faris

513-732-7313

[www.clermontprosecutor.org](http://www.clermontprosecutor.org)

### Recorder

Deborah Hall Clepper

513-732-7236

[www.recorder.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.recorder.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Sheriff

Robert S. (Steve) Leahy

513-732-7500

[www.clermontsheriff.org](http://www.clermontsheriff.org)

### Treasurer

J. Robert True

513-732-7254

[www.clermonttreasurer.org](http://www.clermonttreasurer.org)



101 East Main Street

Batavia, Ohio 45103

513-732-7300

[www.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov)



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